****

**The BILAG Biologics Prospective Cohort: Long-term Safety of New Treatments in the Management of SLE**

**Participant Information Sheet (PIS) for adults**

You are being invited to take part in a research study.The purpose of the research study is to assess whether the new biological treatments available to treat lupus have any side effects when used long-term in ‘real life’ not revealed during shorter- term clinical trials. These side effects, if any, will be compared to those seen with standard treatments for lupus such as azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil or cyclophosphamide. The study therefore involves following up participants taking a number of different drugs for lupus and assessing if and how often long-term side effects occur.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether to take part, and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

**About the research**

* **Who will conduct the research?**

The study is being sponsored by the University of Manchester and funded through BILAG. BILAG (British Isles Lupus Assessment Group) is a consortium of 10 rheumatology centres across Great Britain who share a specific commitment to the study of lupus and who have obtained funding to set up this project. The study is being co-­ordinated by the University of Manchester and the lead researcher, Professor Ian Bruce (Division of Musculoskeletal & Dermatological Sciences) can be contacted for further details. Results of the study will be sent to your specialist (Tel: ######### Fax: ######## Email: ###############) whom you should contact for further information. You can also find information on the BILAG BR website <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/bilag/>

Local contact

* **What is the purpose of the research?**

As mentioned above, the purpose of this research is to assess whether the new biological treatments available to treat lupus (for example Mabthera, Rixathon, Truxima and Benlysta) have any side effects when used long-term in ‘real life’ not revealed during shorter- term clinical trials. These side effects, if any, will be compared to those seen with standard treatments for lupus such as azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil or cyclophosphamide.

All of these drugs have been tested in clinical trials and approved for use but more information is needed. The reasons for this are clinical trials (i) run for a short period of time (weeks/months), (ii) have fewer numbers of participants compared to those who will ultimately be treated with the drug in the NHS and (iii) may exclude participants with additional diseases (comorbidities). Therefore, we especially need more information on the side effects of these drugs prescribed in NHS lupus clinics over a long period. The study therefore involves following up patients who are taking a number of different drugs for lupus. The study team will observe the frequency with which long-term side effects occur in patients receiving the newer treatments compared to those taking established treatments. This will provide patients and doctors a better picture of any increased risk of side effects for the newer drugs.

The study will collect information on participants with lupus who are treated with both standard treatments and the new biological treatments for their lupus. The information will be collected at the first appointment, and then at three months, six months and twelve months after the beginning of the study, and then every twelve months for at least five years. We do not know exactly how long we will be collecting the information, as it depends on the funding we receive to continue the research. Information will be collected about the participant, their lupus, quality of life, treatments, other health problems and results from routine blood tests. If you take part, we will ask your permission to flag your record with NHS Digital such that in the unlikely event you develop a cancer or die during the research, the researchers will be notified directly.

You have been chosen to be invited because you have lupus and have either started taking one of the new treatments called “biological therapies” or you have started taking one of the standard treatments for lupus and may provide comparison information. By participating, you will help us build up the amount of data for analysis.

We intend to invite as many children and adults as possible who are taking one of the new drugs, or the standard treatment.

* **Will the outcomes of the research be published?**

The results of the study will be presented at scientific meetings and published in medical journals. We will also post the results in lay terms on the BILAG BR website for you to see: <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/bilag/> . No identifying information will be used in these analyses.

* **Who has reviewed the research project?**

All research in the NHS is looked at by independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by North West 9 REC - Greater Manchester West Research Ethics Committee.

* **Who is funding the research project?**

The study has received funding from the charity Lupus UK, and healthcare companies such as Roche and GlaxoSmithKline, who manufacture some of the biologic therapies used to treat lupus.

**What would my involvement be?**

* **Your participation will involve the following:**

1. Agreement with your specialist to provide information of relevance to the study (including treatments and illnesses you have) from your NHS hospital medical records to the study researchers. Copies of the data collection questionnaires are available at <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/bilag/>
2. Agreement for your date of birth and NHS/CHI/HCN number to be shared with other national databases, including NHS Digital, for the purposes of matching identifiable information already held by these national databases. There are different databases for each of the devolved nations in the UK. This will allow these national organisations to provide the study team with additional clinical information held on their NHS files about your hospital admissions or details if you are registered as having cancer or in the event of your death. By this means, events such as an admission to hospital (that may not have been reported by your hospital care team) will be collected. This will result in a more complete picture of your health experience and will enable the study to provide more accurate results on the long-term safety of the biologic drugs.

* **The following activities are optional and you may participate in the research without taking part in them, but they will provide important data for the researchers:**

1. Agreement to complete questionnaires and other survey forms about your health. You may find some of the questions to be of a sensitive or personal nature. You do not have to answer all questions.
2. Agreement to provide blood samples to the research team at the beginning of the study and at 6 months and 12 months after you receive your treatment. These samples will be taken at the same time as routine blood samples, to minimise the inconvenience to you. Each additional sample will be approximately 20ml (about 4 teaspoons full).
3. Agreement to provide a urine sample of approximately 5ml (about a teaspoon full) to the research team at the beginning of the study and at 6 months and 12 months after you receive your treatment. This sample will be taken from a routine urine sample, to minimise the inconvenience to you.
4. **If lupus is affecting your kidneys**: If you have or have had a kidney biopsy as part of your disease management and investigation, any ‘excess’ kidney tissue left over from your tests is routinely stored at the hospital. With your doctor’s agreement, we may ask your permission to use this tissue for research. We may ask your hospital to allow us to collect a small amount of the left over tissue to analyse in our study. We would like to do this if you have had a kidney biopsy in the past five years, or if a kidney biopsy is necessary for your clinical care before you start your new treatment. Taking a small sample does not interfere with the results of the biopsy for your clinical assessment as all histology tests will have been completed. Excess tissue, which is routinely stored in paraffin blocks, would only be considered for research after this point. We will use this excess tissue to try to find out whether the way your genetic material (RNA) works in your kidneys affects how well you respond to your lupus treatment.

* **How long will the study team collect this information?**

At this stage we do not know how long we will want to collect this information from you and about you. It is likely to be for at least five years because we are interested in the long term effects of these drugs (some patients have been in the study for up to 10 years so far).

During the course of the study your doctor may need to change your therapy again, or you may need a further course of your existing therapy. In these circumstances we would like to follow this new course of therapy in a similar way as described in parts i) to v) of this section above, i.e. with blood and urine samples as well as questionnaires at the time of your treatment change and then with questionnaires only (no blood and urine samples) at 3, 6 and 12 months and then annually.

* **What will I have to do?**

If you agree to take part in the study, we would like to collect information about you by:

1. asking your specialist to fill in some questionnaires about you
2. if you agree, we would like you to answer some short questionnaires that will give us information on your background, lifestyle and quality of life. We will also ask you to keep a record of any changes to your medication and any hospital visits you have in the form of a patient diary.

We will ask for this information at the beginning of the study, then three months, six months and twelve months after you receive your treatment, then every twelve months while you are taking part in the study. This information will take about 30 minutes for you to complete each time.

* **Blood and urine samples**

If you agree, we would also like to collect information about you by:

1. asking you to provide blood samples to the research team
2. asking you to provide a small sample of urine

The blood samples will be taken at the same time as a routine blood sample at your lupus clinic appointment. These, along with the urine sample, will be used to perform tests that might help us better understand how lupus patients respond to treatment over time and whether we can predict patients who will develop long-term complications of disease and treatment by looking at their DNA and cells in their blood and urine.

Blood and urine samples will be stored securely at the University of Manchester or at a specialist company providing biological storage facilities under a contract with the University of Manchester (NIHR Biosample Centre, Milton Keynes MK7 8AT; UK Biostores & Services, Manchester M30 7NB). The University of Manchester remains responsible for your samples at all times.

* **Kidney biopsy samples**

If lupus is affecting your kidneys, and you have agreed to allow the researchers to use a small amount of kidney tissue “left over” from a kidney biopsy you have had as part of your routine disease management, you do not need to do anything, as the researchers will organise this.

* **All samples**

We ask that you gift these samples to the research team for analysis in this research and also for future research. You can choose whether or not you would like to gift blood and/or urine samples to the research team by putting your initials in the relevant box on the consent form. You can also choose whether or not you want your samples to be used in future research by initialling the box on the consent form. Your anonymised samples and data, identified only by a unique code (patient ID), may be used by researchers working alongside the research team.

* **Future research studies**

Lupus is a rare disease and this project will provide the opportunity to collect information on a large group of patients who have lupus. There is still a lot we don’t know about lupus and we would therefore like to ask your permission to contact you in the future about other research studies that are being carried out. You do not have to agree to be contacted about future research but if you do agree to be contacted, your details will be kept securely in a register of participants interested in being contacted. If a new research project does come up, we will not pass your details on to anyone else. Instead we will write to you to ask you about possibly taking part in the research.

* **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part? What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

If you agree, we will ask you to provide additional blood and urine samples for the research, but will aim for these to be taken at the same time of your routine blood tests, to lessen the inconvenience for you. The diary and questionnaires we ask you to complete will take some of your time, about 30 minutes every data collection point. The study will run alongside your routine clinical care at the hospital. It will not influence this process at all. Therefore, there are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this study.

Although there is no clinical benefit gained by participation in the study, the information obtained from this study may result in changes in future treatment of patients with lupus and will help patients and doctors make more informed treatment decisions.

* **Will the research influence the treatment I receive?**

The research does not alter the treatment you receive. Your specialist will start and stop treatments as determined by your clinical condition.

* **Will I be compensated for taking part?**

As taking part in this study does not involve attending any extra clinic appointments we do not offer any payment for taking part.

* **What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. Your hospital care team will discuss this with you and you should let them know whether you want to take part or not. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form or provide consent by clicking a box on an online form.

If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. You can withdraw from the study by speaking to your hospital care team, or by contacting the researchers (details at the end of this sheet). However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once it has been anonymised as we will not be able to identify your specific data. This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide not to take part you do not need to do anything further.

If you do decide to withdraw from the study you have three different options:

Option 1: No further participant contact:

We would not send you any further questionnaires or surveys to you about your health, but we would continue to receive information from your hospital care team and via the linkage with the national databases.

Option 2: No further participant or hospital contact:

We would not send you, or your hospital care team, any further forms or surveys asking about your health. Your record would still be linked with the national databases.

Option 3: Complete withdrawal:

We would not send out any surveys or forms to you or your hospital care team. We would also contact the national databases to un-link your record so no further information was received on your health status from the time you withdrew. We would also destroy any blood or urine samples that you had agreed to have taken for the research study.

**Data Protection and Confidentiality**

* **What information will you collect about me?**

In order to participate in this research project we will need to collect information that could identify you, called “personal identifiable information”. Specifically we will need to collect:

* + your name
  + your address
  + your contact details
  + your date of birth
  + your NHS number
  + your ethnicity
* **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

We are collecting and storing this personal identifiable information in accordance with UK data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

* **What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?**

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. For example you can request a copy of the information we hold about you.

If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult our [Privacy Notice for Research](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=37095), which is available online here: <https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=37095>

* **Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?**

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Manchester is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

* All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. We will provide participants with an assigned ID number only known to the research team (known as pseudonymised).
* We keep information that might identify individuals (such as name and address) separate from other information about participants in the BILAG BR database.
* We implement computer security to block unauthorised access to the computers/systems that hold personal information.
* Any access to personal information will be restricted within the BILAG BR team via a University of Manchester username and password. In addition, approved data processors (who have appropriate security measures in place) may have access to your personal information for data processing purposes only. Data processors are any person or organisation that agrees to process your data on behalf of the data controller/s where appropriate agreements are in place. The data processing will only ever be for the purposes of this study and contractual agreements will be put in place for this purpose to ensure the safety of your data.
* Information will be updated regularly by your hospital care team and collected using either paper questionnaires or a secure computer system. Your identifiable information will be held in a secure format by the research team (named by the study’s Chief Investigator) at The University of Manchester and trusted third parties where appropriate legal agreements are in place (see next section).
* Individuals from the University of Manchester, from the regulatory authorities or from relevant NHS Trusts will have access to the personal data in order to monitor and audit the conduct of the study.
* No-one else outside the research team will have access to any identifying information and all identifiable information will be kept securely. Anonymised information about you and your samples may be shared with other collaborators (academic institutions or commercial organisations worldwide) to perform research that will lead to a greater understanding of the causes of and processes involved in lupus.
* The University of Manchester will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished and then it will be subsequently securely destroyed.
* **This section only applies to participants whose lupus is affecting their kidneys and who have agreed to let the researchers use a small amount of tissue left over from a kidney biopsy they have had as part of their routine disease management:** It is very important to us to handle your kidney tissue securely and confidentially. Paraffin blocks containing your kidney tissue may be marked by the hospital with information identifying you, including your name or initials. Blocks will be transferred securely from the hospital to a named researcher at Imperial College London using a tracked courier service. The researcher fully understands the need for confidentiality and has undergone training and certification in safe and confidential handling of personal and clinical information. Imperial College London will not record your personal information from the block. The small piece of your kidney tissue taken for research will no longer have your name and other details, and will be identified only by a unique code. The paraffin block will then be securely returned to the hospital. A researcher may look at your medical notes to check that the study is being carried out correctly. This may include assisting the hospital to collect information about you that is missing from the study.

**Sharing data:**

When you agree to take part in a research study and with your informed consent, the information about you may be provided to researchers running other studies here or at other organisations. With your consent your information will be shared in order to support additional research in accordance with for **NHS REC** studies: the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research. You can read this document here: <https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/uk-policy-framework-health-social-care-research/>

The information will only be used for the purpose of keeping a register of those who would be interested in being contacted regarding studies in the future and cannot be used to contact you regarding any other matter. We will keep it for 10 years after the study has ended, and it will then be securely destroyed. You can participate in this study without having to agree to go on the register. If you agree to be included in the contact list, you can choose to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason, by contacting the researcher.

**Potential disclosures:**

The pharmaceutical companies who manufacture some of these therapies may have access to your study data for further safety monitoring but this **will not** contain any personal identifiable information. As these companies are international, there is a small possibility that medical information (in a form that does not include your name) from the Register may be sent outside Europe/ the European Union. By signing the consent form you are agreeing to this transfer. Any study results or published reports using the data will not include your name.

Your medical records will state that you are in this study. By signing the consent form, you are allowing your hospital care team to permit the University of Manchester or approved data processors to have access to information from your medical records relevant to the study for the purposes of capturing the data.

With your permission, we will tell your general practitioner you are in the study.

Please also note that individuals from The University of Manchester or regulatory authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in auditing and monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

This study is being conducted according to the requirements of the UK Data Protection legislation.

**What if I have a complaint?**

* **Contact details for complaints**

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to members of the research team, please contact:

**BILAG BR Chief Investigator**

**Professor Ian Bruce**

**Email:** [**ian.bruce@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:ian.bruce@manchester.ac.uk)

**Tel: 0161 275 1670**

**If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact**

TheResearch Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: [research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk)  or by telephoning 0161 306 8089.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email [dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk) or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL at the University and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the [Information Commissioner’s Office](https://ico.org.uk/concerns) about complaints relating to your personal identifiable information

You can find details of the ICO’s complaints procedure on their website here: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

You can also telephone the ICO: 0303 123 1113

**Contact Details**

If you have any queries about the study or if you are interested in taking part then please contact the researcher(s)**:**

**BILAG BR Study Coordinator**

**Dr Emily Sutton**

**Email: emily.sutton@manchester.ac.uk**

**Tel: 0161 3061916**

**BILAG BR Project Administrator**

**Alison Fountain**

**Email:** [**alison.fountain@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:alison.fountain@manchester.ac.uk)

**BILAG BR Chief Investigator**

**Professor Ian Bruce**

**Email:** [**ian.bruce@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:ian.bruce@manchester.ac.uk)

**BILAG BR, Biologic Studies Group, Unit 4 Rutherford House, 40 Pencroft Way, Manchester,**

**M15 6SZ**